

# Saga™

BRIAN K. VAUGHAN FIONA STAPLES



FS II

CHAPTER  
TWO



HotComic.net

CHAPTER  
TWO

# Saga

WRITTEN BY  
BRIAN K. VAUGHAN

ART BY  
FIONA STAPLES

LETTERS + DESIGN BY  
FONOGRAFIKS

COORDINATED BY  
ERIC STEPHENSON



IMAGE COMICS, INC.

Robert Kirkman  
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER  
Erik Larsen  
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER  
Todd McFarlane  
PRESIDENT  
Marc Silvestri  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
Jim Valentino  
VICE-PRESIDENT

Eric Stephenson  
PUBLISHER  
Todd Martinez  
SALES & LICENSING COORDINATOR  
Jennifer de Guzman  
PR & MARKETING DIRECTOR  
Bronwyn Bigglestone  
ACCOUNTS MANAGER  
Emily Miller  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
Jamie Parreno  
MARKETING ASSISTANT  
Sarah delaine  
EVENTS COORDINATOR  
Kevin Yuen  
DIGITAL RIGHTS COORDINATOR  
Tyler Shainline  
PRODUCTION MANAGER  
Drew Gill  
ART DIRECTOR  
Jonathan Chan  
SENIOR PRODUCTION ARTIST  
Monica Garcia  
Vincent Kukua  
Jana Cook  
PRODUCTION ARTISTS

[www.imagecomics.com](http://www.imagecomics.com)

SAGA #2, April 2012. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 2134 Allston Way, 2nd Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704. Copyright © Brian K. Vaughan & Fiona Staples. All rights reserved. SAGA, its logos, and all character likenesses herein are trademarks of Brian K. Vaughan & Fiona Staples unless expressly indicated. Image Comics® and its logos are registered trademarks and copyrights of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means (except for short excerpts for review purposes) without the express written permission of Brian K. Vaughan & Fiona Staples or Image Comics, Inc. All names, characters, events, and locales in this publication, except for satirical purposes, are entirely fictional, and any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead) or entities or events or places is coincidental. Printed in the USA. For information regarding the CPSIA on this printed material call: 203-595-3636 and provide reference # EAST-431536

INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS REPRESENTATIVE: Christine Meyer (christine@glfx.com)

HotComic.net













Yeah, they warned me this was a bake-off. I can handle the competition.

Who else they commence? The Import? The Fluke?

I'm sorry, Will... they specifically requested *The Stalk*.



Oh.



Already left a few days ago. Just thought you should know. Obviously, there's nothing to prevent you both working the case...

...other than the fact I never want to see that asshole's face again?

Forget it, I'm changing course for *Sextillion*.



Might as well max this thing out on whores before somebody remembers to cancel it.

Come on, I know it's a crowded field, but a guy like you could *retire* on this kinda payday. What if your targets give everybody else the slip?

We both know the score. If *The Stalk* is on their trail...



...those kids are already dead.



Actually, against  
all odds, I'd been alive  
three whole days.

This is  
what I get  
for marrying a  
vegetarian!

Even  
the goddamn  
*plants* want  
us dead!

My family's quest  
for Cleave's mythical  
Rocketship Forest had  
sent us doubling back  
into its all-too-real  
Endless Woods.

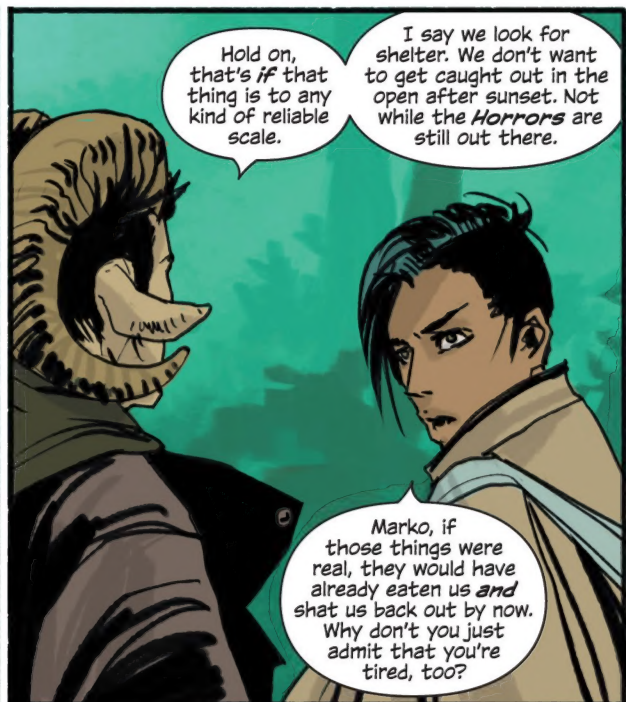














If there's an opposite of a honeymoon,  
it's the week after a couple's  
first child is born.



I love our  
girl. Don't you  
love the way  
she smells?

mm

Don't  
you...  
just...?

No matter how hard they try,  
no matter how pure their  
intentions...



... everything will  
go wrong.

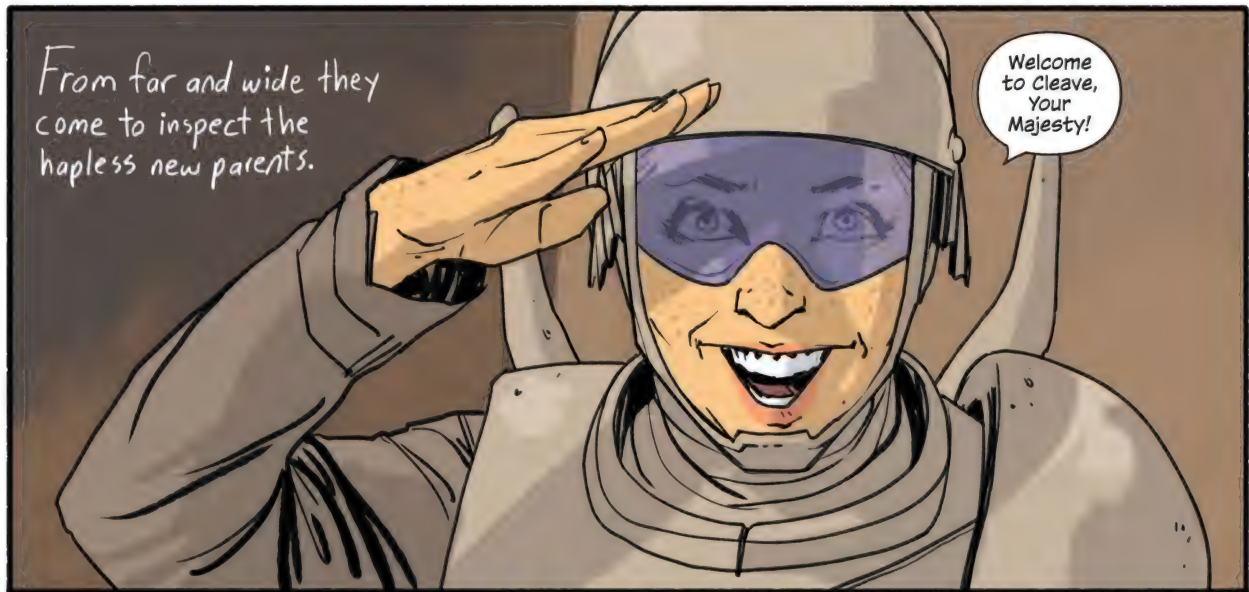


hmmk

And that's when  
the gawkers  
show up.







From far and wide they  
come to inspect the  
hapless new parents.

Welcome  
to Cleave,  
Your  
Majesty!



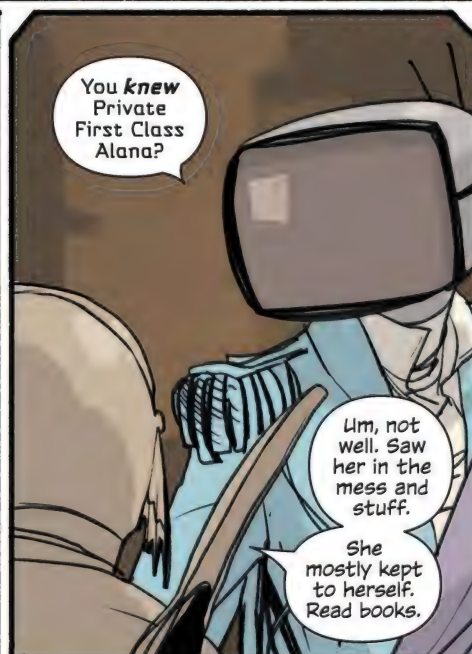
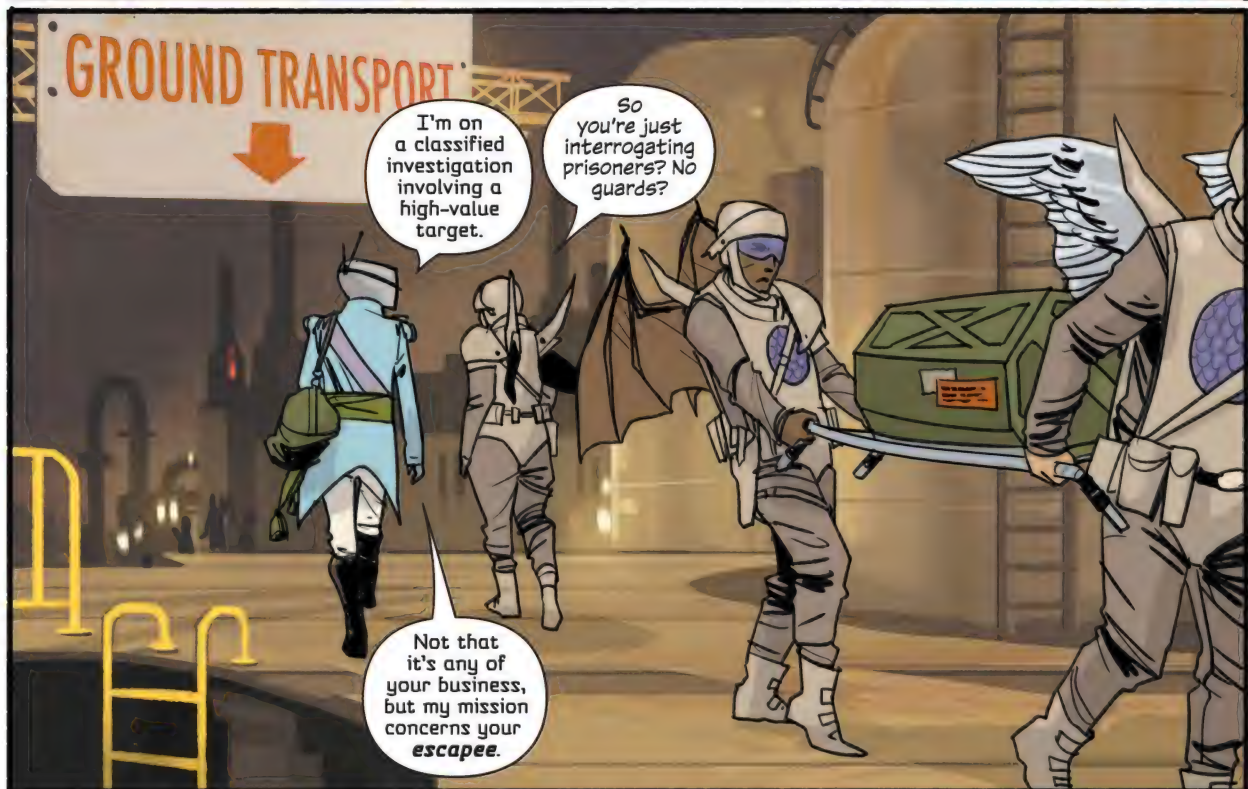
Lance Corporal  
McHenry, 372nd  
Company, at your  
disposal.

How  
was the  
trip in from  
Landfall,  
sir?

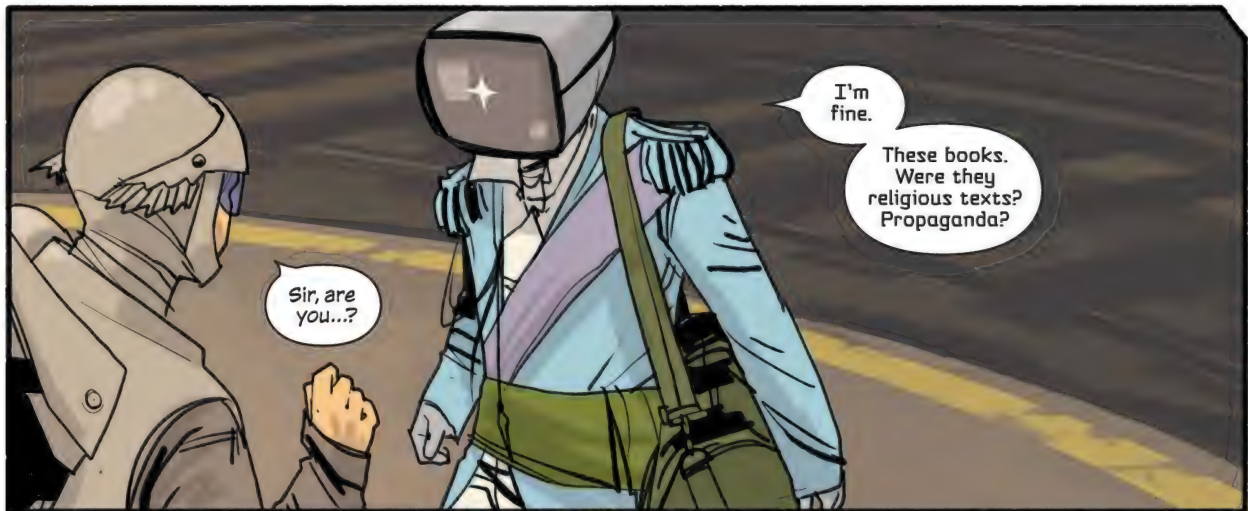
The nice ones  
bring food.

Dreadful.  
I'd rather  
fly commercial  
than another  
one of those  
godforsaken  
things.

















Something's here.

Then we run.



Too late for that.

We have to count on our *rings* to make whatever's out there understand.



If you can hear my voice, we mean you no harm, and... and we apologize if we have trespassed on your land or done anything to offend you.

My wife and I may *look* like the armies that have invaded this world, but we are *not* like them. We have renounced violence in every form.

Most forms.



I lay down my weapon as a gesture of good faith.

Please, may my family pass in peace?











My name is Marko.  
I'm just trying to take care of my girls.



And I'm just trying to do my job.  
They call me *The Stalk.*



"The...?"



**FREE-LANCER!**





**MARKO!**



kk

Get away from him!



I mean it!  
I'll fucking kill you!





Not with  
a *stun gun*,  
you won't.

Sorry,  
sister.



I know a  
thing or two  
about this  
game.













What?

They're  
real?!

I once saw  
a pack of them  
rip a man's spine  
out through his  
urethra. That's not  
an exaggeration.  
I *saw* that.



Fuck  
it.

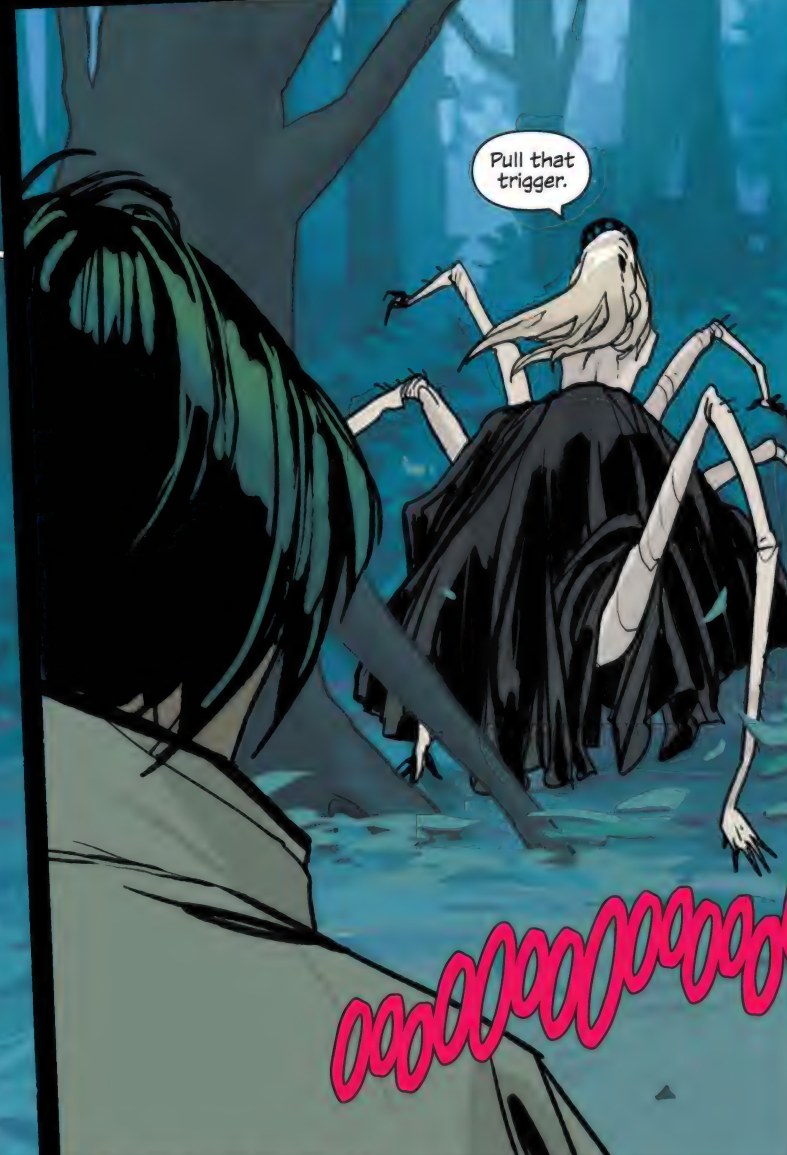
If they  
take their time  
digesting you  
three, I might  
still have a  
shot.



You're  
running  
away?

What am  
I supposed  
to do?

If you  
really love  
your kid?



Pull that  
trigger.





Baby!



Baby,  
baby,  
baby.



Baby,  
please.

We need  
you. They're  
coming and, and  
we need you.  
I need--

Hello?



AHHH!

Hello?

Hello?

Hello?

Hello?

Hello?

Hello,  
we've been  
watching  
you.



Looks  
like you  
could use  
a hand.





# TO BE CONTINUED

4335 VAN NUYS BOULEVARD • SUITE 332 • SHERMAN OAKS • CA 91403

Hey, it's you! You came back. Cool.

I just returned from hanging with sketch machine Fiona Staples at Image Expo in Oakland, where I saw so many incredible new comics from so many amazing new creators, my left eyeball literally exploded out of my face.

Special thanks to American heroes Mike Malve and Ryan Liebowitz for somehow tracking down a classy eyepatch for me. Apologies to whichever convention cosplay pirate it was likely stolen from.

Anyway, I'm writing this lettercol on the eve of our first issue's release, so the *To Be Continued* mailbox remains empty and unloved. In the interest of killing time, I thought I might run a little "Customer Survey," something comic companies routinely do to learn more about their loyal readership.

So if you have a few extra minutes to kill, won't you please consider answering some or all of the questions below? Feel free to fill out your answers directly on the page, then tear it out and mail it to the above address.

Don't worry about ruining the "value" of your comic, dingus! True value comes from story and art (as well as from the coded scavenger hunt clues designer Steven Finch has been hiding throughout our book).

## 2012 SAGA READER SURVEY

- 1) If you don't mind me asking, how old are you?
- 2) And where are you from?
- 3) What are you reading these days?
- 4) Do you buy your funny books from your friendly neighborhood retailer, or from an online site like Comixology?
- 5) Important: who would win in a fight, the Hulk or Rorschach?
- 6) If a member of the *Saga* creative team were on the run from the authorities, might he or she be able to crash on your couch for a bit?
- 7) What is the worst recreational drug?
- 8) Why won't more people accept the fact that *Haywire* is Steven Soderbergh's very best film?
- 9) What is your second greatest regret in life? Giving up on those piano lessons?
- 10) Seriously, what is wrong with my eye?
- 11) What is the only truly excellent Mexican restaurant in New York City?

12) Ian Fleming once wrote that James Bond liked sex best when it had "*the sweet tang of rape*." Does this change the way you feel about the character and/or life on this planet?

13) If you had to permanently give up either chocolate or cheese (in each of their infinite varieties), which would you choose?

14) When was the last time you watched a stage play, and what was it?

15) What do you think Image publisher Eric Stephenson's darkest secret really is?

16) Which of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles is most assuredly an atheist?

17) Have we dated?

18) Would you rather be trapped on the island from *Lost* with your mom or dad, and why?

19) When was the last time you were naked in front of someone in a nonsexual context?

20) Are you Banksy, and if so, can we do anything to help?

21) Who had a greater impact on your upbringing, your favorite librarian or your favorite coach?

22) What are you working on these days, anything creative?

23) Wait, why did you abandon it?

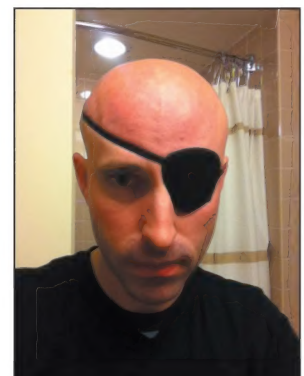
24) Relax, I'm sure it's great. Listen, why not put down this comic and do a little work on your thing RIGHT NOW?

25) Cool, but before you do, if you were to be reincarnated as an inanimate object, what would it be?

\*\*\*

On behalf of the whole *Saga* team, thank you in advance for your cooperation. Rest assured that all answers will be kept in the strictest confidence, unless they're particularly clever.

See you next month,  
Special Agent Baldpatch



HotComic.net



## Question of the Month

"For me, it's the Baltimore convention. The best comics conventions always have a good combination of guests, location and low presence of other media. Baltimore has the whole package. I sat there with Richard Starkings in 2009-2010 and I could feel such a genuine feeling of love for comics from everyone there. Other very comics friendly cons similar to this that I've thoroughly enjoyed include Emerald City Con and Heroes Con!"

Andre Szymonowicz  
MIL PENA

## "WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE COMIC BOOK CONVENTION?"

"Emerald City in Seattle. The con is special for one simple reason: the fans. As comic books are increasingly used to inject vitality into movies and video games, sometimes conventions can feel like comics are off in the wings, but Emerald City puts comic books center stage. The show is electrified with a love of comic books, and fans should make at least one pilgrimage to Emerald City."

Gerry Duggan  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

"TCAF, the Toronto Comic Arts Festival in my hometown is a wonderful show that keeps growing every year without losing its intimate creator-centric focus. Independent comic creators, webcomics and comic art are on display and for sale in Canada's largest library during TCAF along with great panels and book premieres all weekend long. The fact that it's free to attend is just icing on the cake."

Jim Zub  
SHOULDERBASTERS

"Emerald City Comic Con. Jim Deannakas has created a popular show centered around creators in a great city with plenty of coffee shops, crape restaurants and rain! It's an Englishman's paradise. (Well, it's MY paradise!)"

Richard Starkings  
ELEPHANTMEN

"My favorite convention is Heroes Con because of the sheer number of artists that are there. It's also very laid back and family friendly. Almost like a comic summer camp weekend."

Phil Noto  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

# APRIL 2012

For the latest Image Comics news and previews: (1) visit [www.imagecomics.com](http://www.imagecomics.com) (2) friend on Facebook (3) follow on Twitter (@imagecomics)

## THE THIRD DEGREE JONATHAN HICKMAN

Jonathan Hickman is the award-winning talent behind such works as *The Nightly News*, *Pax Romana*, *Transhuman* and *The Red Wing*. His upcoming books, *The Manhattan Projects* and *Secret*, along with his mainstream titles, *Fantastic Four* and *the Ultimates*, have cemented him as one of the unique voices in the industry.

**What are you working on right now?**  
Today I'm writing *Secret*. The first issue of which happens to be out this month.

**What's the best part of your job?**  
Making things up. Playing pretend... generally being paid to functionally act like a kid.

**What's the worst part of your job?**  
Deadlines, right? It's got to be that -- running out of time, it's the worst.

**How did you first discover comics?**  
Probably the same way the majority of fans my age did. Spinner racks in drug stores and 7-11s.

**If you weren't working in comics, what would you be doing?**  
In the short term, Art directing probably. In the long term, probably killing myself from art directing.

**What's the strangest thing a fan has ever said to you?**  
Oh, I have no idea. I don't take a lot of that seriously. Sure, I believe people are being sincere, but I'm so hard on myself I can't swallow most of it. I'm just glad when I smile, they smile and don't throw shit at me.

**What's your favorite part of the comics-creating process?**  
Breaking the initial story. Figuring out where the story is going.

**Who is the biggest influence on your work?**  
Writing? Frank Herbert. In comics, Grant Morrison or Warren Ellis probably. Art? No idea, that changes monthly, always has.

**What is the single work of which you're most proud?**  
Wrong person to ask. I kind of love and hate each thing both equally and differently.

**Own up to one of your guilty pleasures.**  
Oh, I think I wear it like a badge. Soccer.

**What was the last comic book you bought?**  
I think it was *Fatale* #2, actually. I haven't been to the store in a bit because I've been traveling.

**If you could be someone else for a day, who would it be?**  
Lionel Messi. Forget the day, just for one game.

**Pick three things you couldn't live without.**  
My wife and kids.

**What's the strangest thing you have in your house?**  
My wife and kids.

**What is one of your favorite places?**  
I love the mountains.

**What music are you listening to these days?**  
Usually just alt-rock. I am looking forward to Jack White's new album. Remastered Smiths is pretty amazing.

**What is your favorite film of all time?**  
Probably, Lynch's *Dune*.

**Who is your best friend?**  
Oh that's my wife, again.

**What is the worst advice you've ever received?**  
I'm pretty good at making my own decisions regarding both my personal life and career, so I don't really take a lot of advice in general. The worst thing was probably a business thing that happened 15 years ago -- never get into bed with someone you don't really know.

**When was the last time you were truly frightened?**  
When one of my kids got sick. That's a pretty scary, helpless feeling.

**Name someone you really admire and explain why.**  
I assume you mean in comics, so, Professional/Business related? Bendis. Hands down. I don't think there's anyone in the medium that handles the volume of responsibility and work that guy does. It's stunning. Staggering. Talent-wise? Skottie Young's a beast. A professional cartoonist in the purist sense.

**What would you like to see happen in comics in the next 12 months?**  
I think it would be cool to see Image get to double their percentage of the market. That would be pretty stunning.

**What the world needs now is...**  
More love, less hate.

## the word

EXPERIENCE CREATIVITY

### AMERICA'S GOT POWERS #1 (of 6)



Welcome to **AMERICA'S GOT POWERS**! It's the biggest TV show on Earth, where the chance to win fame, fortune and get laid are dangled in front of a generation of super-powered teens. All they have to do is WIN. Who is the fastest, the strongest or the greatest? Who survives? Young Tommy Watt's dreams of being the greatest hero of the greatest show on the planet begins to reveal it's dark heart.

### DANGER CLUB #1



What if the union of a generation's brightest minds was not a signal for optimism but a warning? The atomic bomb proved its capacity for immense devastation, but what if its creation was just a cover for a series of more unusual programs? A new series by Jonathan Hickman and Nick Pitarra takes a look at one of the most critical periods of the 20th century through a lens both darkened and strange.

### SECRET #1



"TEETH, WITH WHICH TO EAT" A man gets shot in London, a law firm gets broken into in Washington, an accountant gives away the password to his computer, and something put to sleep 20 years ago awakens. What is the unsavory relationship all these things share, and how could it bring down two of the largest governments in the history of the world?

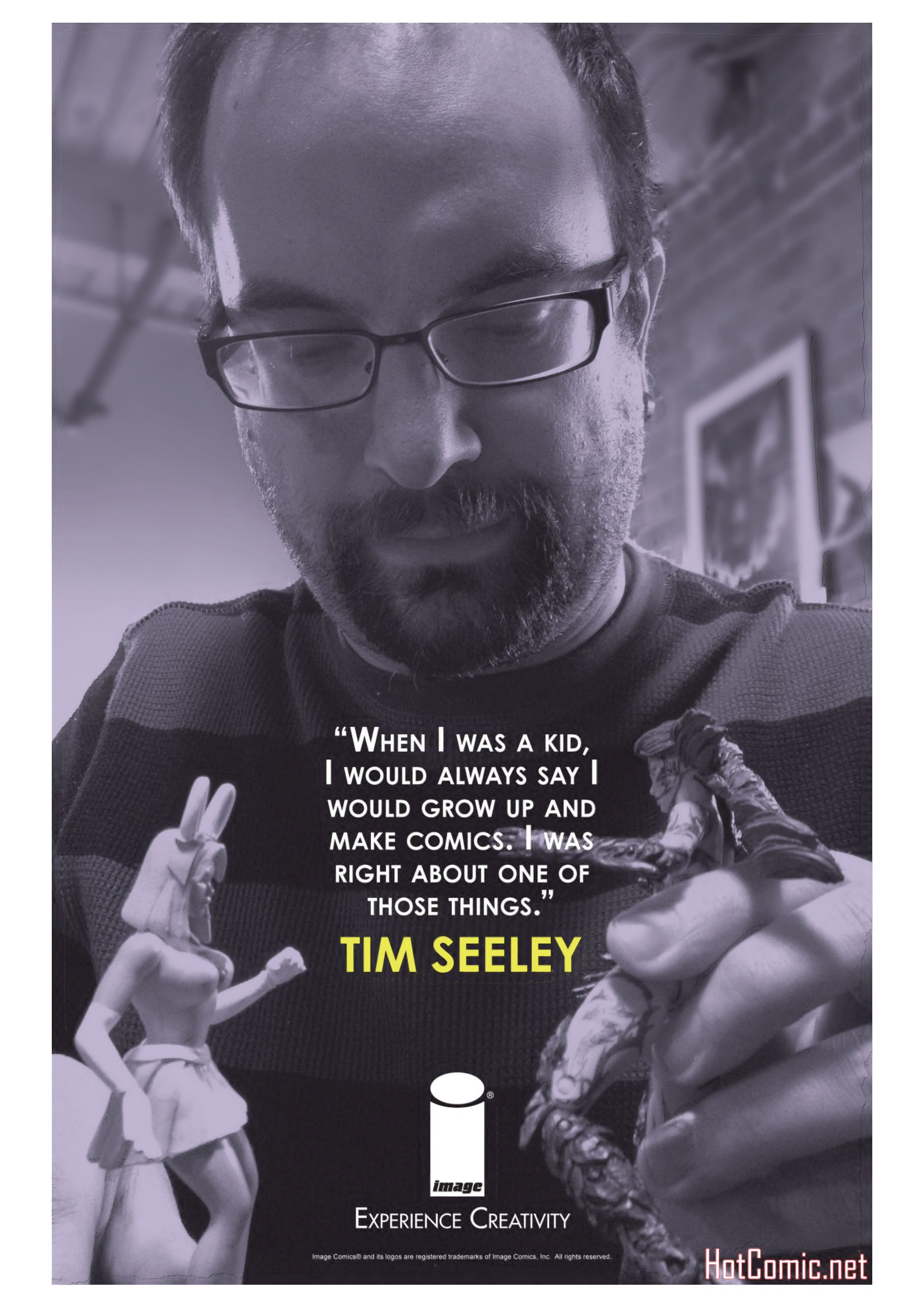
### SUPREME #63



"REVELATIONS" The legendary Supreme returns! ALAN MOORE's final SUPREME tale is the ultimate jumping on point for new readers! The triumphant return of Image Comics' most powerful hero! As Supreme romances Diana Dane he takes her on a tour of the Citadel Supreme and tells all of his innermost secrets just as Supreme's most hated nemesis, Darius Dax, makes a most unfortunate discovery: the key to defeat his abhorred adversary!

HotComic.net



A black and white photograph of Tim Seeley, a man with glasses and a beard, looking down at two comic book figures he is holding. The figure on the left is a female character in a short skirt and top, while the figure on the right is a more complex, possibly armored or robotic character. The background is slightly out of focus, showing what appears to be a framed picture on a wall.

**"WHEN I WAS A KID,  
I WOULD ALWAYS SAY I  
WOULD GROW UP AND  
MAKE COMICS. I WAS  
RIGHT ABOUT ONE OF  
THOSE THINGS."**

**TIM SEELEY**



EXPERIENCE CREATIVITY

Image Comics® and its logos are registered trademarks of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved.

**HotComic.net**



imagecomics.com

RATED M / MATURE

HotComic.net